

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OES-09 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 MCT-01 SY-05 /110 W

-----057453 082147Z /45

R 071549Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2928

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

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USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR PGOV NU VE

SUBJECT: THIS WEEK IN VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 6151

SUMMARY: PEREZ GIVES INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS.

NICARAGUAN EXILES TAKE OVER NICARAGUAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS.

COPEI AND AD ANNOUNCE ELECTORAL PACTS. VENEZUELA SIGNS

AMAZON PACT. CAMPAIGN MISCELLANY: THE SUPREME ELECTORAL

COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. PEREZ GIVES INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS.

IN A NATIONWIDE VENEZUELAN INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE,

PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ RECONFIRMED VENEZUELA'S

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20-YEAR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND SPOKE ON THE ROLE OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN CONSOLIDATING VENEZUELAN

INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. IN CONTRAST TO THE VENEZUELAN

INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT OF THE PAST, PEREZ SAID THAT SOVEREIGNTY

TODAY IS BASED ON TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INDEPENDENCE,

AND CHARGED THE TRANSNATIONALS WITH PERPETUATING VENEZUELAN

TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE. PEREZ ALSO REITERATED HIS CALL

FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, NOTING THAT VENEZUELA FORMS PART OF THE THIRD WORLD WHICH IS STRIVING FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL SPHERES. IN KEEPING WITH THE ELECTION YEAR, PEREZ ALSO TOOK TIME TO CITE IN DETAIL THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION IN DEALING WITH THE COUNTRY'S TECHNOLOGICAL DEMANDS.

2. EXILES TAKE OVER NICARAGUAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS.

SIX NICARAGUAN EXILES, WHO ARRIVED IN VENEZUELA TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER BEING GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, OCCUPIED THE NICARAGUAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS JULY 6 FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS BEFORE BEING ARRESTED BY POLICE. DURING THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE EMBASSY, THE EXILES EXPELLED EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND SPRAY PAINTED THE EMBASSY WALLS WITH ANTI-SOMOZA SLOGANS. FIVE OF THE EXILES WERE IDENTIFIED AS: SAUL ALVAREZ RAMIREZ, OSCAR GARCIA ARANGA, OSCAR MANUEL RUIZ, MARCOS LOPEZ, AND JOSE ANTONIO BENITEZ.

3. COPEI AND AD ANNOUNCE ELECTORAL PACTS.

COPEI CANDIDATE LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS ANNOUNCED JULY 1 THAT HIS PARTY HAD FORMED AN ELECTORAL PACT WITH THE UNION REPUBLICANA DEMOCRATICA (URD) PARTY HEADED BY JOVITO VILLALBA. VILLALBA WILL THUS DROP OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AND WORK TO BRING URD FOLLOWERS INTO THE COPEI CAMP. COPEI ALSO ANNOUNCED JULY 7 THAT THE SMALL LEFT-OF-CENTER PARTY, FUERZA DEMOCRATICA POPULAR (FDP) HEADED BY JORGE DAGER WAS ALSO THROWING ITS SUPPORT BEHIND LUIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HERRERA CAMPINS. IN THE BATTLE OF THE BACKERS, ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD)

RESPONDED IN TURN BY ANNOUNCING THAT A POLITICAL INDEPENDENT WOLFGANG LARRAZABAL (WHO HEADED THE INTERIM JUNTA IN 1958 AFTER PEREZ JIMENEZ WAS OUSTED FROM POWER), HEAD OF THE ACCION DE UNIDAD NACIONALISTA (AUN) PARTY, WAS THROWING HIS SUPPORT BEHIND THE AD CANDIDATE AND WOULD ALSO RUN FOR SENATOR ON THE AD TICKET. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COPEI -URD PACT HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. COPEI PARTY STRATEGISTS HOPE THAT VILLALBA WILL HELP BRING INDEPENDENT AND URD VOTERS INTO THE HERRERA CAMP, PARTICULARLY THOSE VOTERS IN THE EASTERN STATES OF VENEZUELA WHERE VILLALBA STILL HAS A STRONG PERSONAL FOLLOWING. END COMMENT.

4. VENEZUELA SIGNS AMAZON PACT. FONMIN SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI TRAVELED

TO BRAZIL AND JOINED EIGHT FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE SIGNING OF THE AMAZON PACT ON JULY 4. LOCAL PRESS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE SIGNING AND CONSALVI'S STATEMENTS THAT THE PACT INSURES A RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMAZON BASIN WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE ECOLOGICAL EQUILIBRIUM OF THE REGION. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ARISTIDES CALVANI, WHO SERVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT CALDERA, IMMEDIATELY TOOK

ISSUE WITH CONSALVI, SAYING THAT THE PACT IN REALITY APPEARED TO ADDRESS MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEM. CALVANI CRITICIZED THE NOTE OF "EXCLUSIVITY" WHICH HE SAID CHARACTERIZED THE AMAZON PACT, "AS IF ITS PURPOSE WERE TO EXCLUDE THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD COUNTRIES."

5. CAMPAIGN MISCELLANY: THE SUPREM ELECTORAL COUNCIL. AFTER REJECTING THE APPLICATION OF DIEGO ARRIA'S NASCENT CAUSA COMUN PARTY LAST WEEK, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CSE) ACCEPTED A NEW PETITON JULY 4 WHICH ARRIA BACKERS CLAIMED CONTAINED THE SIGNATURES NECESSARY TO QUALIFY IT AS A POLITICAL PARTY. THE CSE HAD EARLIER REJECTED CAUSA COMUN'S FIRST PETITION ON THE

GROUND'S THAT SIGNATURES WERE COLLECTED FROM ONLY 10 OF THE NECESSARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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12 STATES NEEDED TO QUALIFY CAUSA COMUN'S STATUS AS A POLITICAL PARTY. THE CSE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT VENEZUELAN'S WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER AND VOTE WITH EXPIRED CEDULAS (IDENTITY CARDS.) COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE CSE WAS APPARENTLY MADE TO HELP EASE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BACKLOG OF CEDULA ISSUANCE, LATELY MADE EVEN WORSE THAN NORMAL BY THE DEMANDS OF AN ELECTION YEAR. THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY CHARGED WITH ISSUING CEDULAS CONCEDED THAT CEDULA ISSUANCE COULD BARELY KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND CREATED BY PERSONS SEEKING TO REPLACE LOST, EXPIRED OR STOLEN CEDULAS, MUCH LESS THOSE SEEKING CEDULAS FOR THE FIRST TIME. END COMMENT.

6. OTHER REPORTING THIS WEEK INCLUDED GRAFIQUIPOS 1978 (CARACAS 6065) CIVAIR VIASA KLM POOL EXTENDED (CARACAS 6098), SURINAM PRIME MINISTER VISITS VENEZUELA (CARACAS 6237), FINAL PROGRAM FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO CARACAS (CARACAS 6255), VICE PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF DEPUTIES SPEAKS OUT ON LOS (CARACAS 6292), ILLICIT PAYMENTS INITIATIVE (CARACAS 6276), COMMERCIAL COUNTERFEITING (CARACAS 6277), AND FINAL NEGOTIATING PHASE OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN) (CARACAS 6270). CROWLEY

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